AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1.   (currently amended)   A content program distributing and returning system, comprising:

a first terminal executing rental of a content program;

a <u>plurality of</u> second terminal<u>s</u> that ~~can be~~ <u>are</u> installed <u>spatially away from each other and</u> spatially <u>away</u> from said first terminal; and

a management apparatus connected to said first and second terminals through a network;

wherein said first terminal executes rental of said content program by storing the content program in a prescribed memory;

<u>one of</u> said second terminal<u>s</u> executes a process for disabling reading of the content program stored in said prescribed memory;

said management apparatus determines charge amount for the rental of said content program based on a time period from storage of the content program by said first terminal in said prescribed memory until said <u>one of the</u> second terminal<u>s</u> executes the process for disabling reading of the content program in said prescribed memory, and controls said <u>one of the</u> second terminal<u>s</u> such that payment is made in accordance with the determined charge amount when <u>said one of</u> the second terminal<u>s</u> disables reading of said content program;

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each of said second terminals is unable to execute rental of the content program

by storing the content program in the prescribed memory.

2.   (currently amended)   The content program distributing and returning

system according to claim 1, wherein

said one of the second terminals stores information of recommended content

programs in the prescribed memory when executing the process for disabling reading of

said stored content program in said prescribed memory.

3.   (original)   The content program distributing and returning system

according to claim 2, wherein

said first terminal displays an image allowing selection of a content program for

rental, and stores a content program selected based on the image displayed for selection

in said prescribed memory; and

contents of said image allowing selection of a content program for rental is

determined based on the information of recommended content programs stored in said

prescribed memory.

4.   (currently amended)   The content program distributing and returning

system according to claim 1, wherein

said first terminal stores said content program and a key necessary for reading the

content program simultaneously in said prescribed memory; and

said <u>one of the</u> second terminal<u>s</u> executes the process for disabling reading of the

content program stored in said prescribed memory by destroying said key.

5.   (original)   The content program distributing and returning system

according to claim 1, wherein

said management apparatus transmits a content program to said first terminal; and

said first terminal stores the content program received from said management

apparatus in said prescribed memory.

6.   (currently amended)   The content program distributing and returning

system according to claim 1, wherein

said <u>one of the</u> second terminal<u>s</u> executes a process for accepting rental

reservation from a user, when executing the process for disabling reading of the content

program stored in said prescribed memory, and transmits information of the accepted

reservation to said management apparatus; and

said management apparatus adds a reward point to said user whose rental

reservation is accepted by said <u>one of the</u> second terminal<u>s</u>, for the rental reservation.

7.   (currently amended)   The content program distributing and returning

system according to claim 1, wherein

said <u>one of the</u> second terminal<u>s</u> accepts input of a rating by a user for the content

program of which reading is to be disabled, and transmits the rating to said management

apparatus when executing the process for disabling reading of the content program; and

said management apparatus adds a reward point to said user for said input of

rating.

8.   (currently amended)   A content program distributing and returning

system, comprising:

a first terminal executing rental of a content program;

a plurality of second terminals that ~~can be~~ are installed spatially apart from each

other and spatially apart from said first terminal; and

a management apparatus connected to said first and second terminals through a

network;

wherein said first terminal executes said rental of the content program by storing

the content program in a prescribed memory;

one of said second terminals executes a process for disabling reading of the

content program stored in said prescribed memory, and stores information of

recommended content programs in said prescribed memory when executing said process;

each of said second terminals is unable to execute rental of the content program

by storing the content program in the prescribed memory.

9.   (currently amended)   The content program distributing and returning

system according to claim 8, wherein

said one of the second terminals stores information of recommended content

programs in the prescribed memory when executing the process for disabling reading of

said stored content program in said prescribed memory.

10.   (original)   The content program distributing and returning system according to claim 9, wherein

said first terminal displays an image allowing selection of a content program for rental, and stores a content program selected based on the image displayed for selection in said prescribed memory; and

contents of said image allowing selection of a content program for rental is determined based on the information of recommended content programs stored in said prescribed memory.

11.   (currently amended)   The content program distributing and returning system according to claim 8, wherein

said first terminal stores said content program and a key necessary for reading the content program simultaneously in said prescribed memory; and

said <u>one of the</u> second terminal<u>s</u> executes the process for disabling reading of the content program stored in said prescribed memory by destroying said key.

12.   (currently amended)   A management apparatus connected to a first terminal executing rental of a content program and a <u>plurality of</u> second terminal<u>s</u> that ~~can be~~ <u>are</u> installed <u>spatially apart from each other and spatially</u> apart from said first terminal, through a network, wherein

said management apparatus determines charge amount for the rental of said content program based on a time period from storage of the content program by said first terminal in said prescribed memory until <u>one of</u> said second terminal<u>s</u> executes a process

for disabling reading of the content program in said prescribed memory, and controls said

one of the second terminals such that payment is made in accordance with the determined

charge amount when said one of the second terminals disables reading of said content

program;

each of said second terminals is unable to execute rental of the content program

by storing the content program in the prescribed memory.

13.   (currently amended)   A rental terminal executing rental of a content

program, storing a content program in a prescribed memory, connected through a

network to a plurality of returning terminals, one of which that disables reading of the

content program in said prescribed memory, and further connected through a network to a

management apparatus that determines charge amount of the rental of said content

program based on a period from storage of the content program in said prescribed

memory by said rental terminal until said one of the returning terminals executes a

process for disabling reading of the content program in said prescribed memory and

controls said one of the returning terminals such that payment is made in accordance with

the charge amount determined when reading of said content program is disabled and

wherein each of said the returning terminals is unable to execute rental of the content

program by storing the content program in the prescribed memory.

14.   (currently amended)   A plurality of returning terminals that can be are

installed spatially apart from each other and spatially apart from a rental terminal, one of

said returning terminals disabling reading of a content program in a prescribed memory

stored by said rental terminal, connected through a network to the rental terminal, and further connected through a network to a management apparatus that determines charge amount of the rental of said content program based on a period from storage of the content program in said prescribed memory by said rental terminal until said <u>one of the</u> returning terminal<u>s</u> executes a process for disabling reading of the content program in said prescribed memory and controls said <u>one of the</u> returning terminal<u>s</u> such that payment is made in accordance with the charge amount determined when reading of said content program is disabled, and wherein <u>each of said</u> the returning terminal<u>s</u> is unable to execute rental of the content program by storing the content program in the prescribed memory.

15.   (currently amended)   A content program rental method comprising the steps of:

storing a content program in a prescribed memory by a first terminal to execute rental of the content program;

disabling reading of the content program stored in said prescribed memory by a <u>plurality of</u> second terminal<u>s</u> that ~~can be~~ <u>are</u> installed <u>spatially apart from each other and spatially</u> apart from said first terminal;

determining charge amount of the rental of said content program, by a management apparatus connected to said first and second terminals through a network, based on a period from storage of the content program in said prescribed memory by said first terminal until reading of the content program in said prescribed memory is disabled by said <u>one of the</u> second terminal<u>s</u>; and

controlling said <u>one of the</u> second terminal<u>s</u> so that payment is made in accordance with said determined charge amount when said <u>one of the</u> second terminal<u>s</u> disables reading of said content program;

<u>each of</u> said second terminal<u>s</u> is unable to execute rental of the content program by storing the content program in the prescribed memory.

16.   (original)   The content program rental method according to claim 15, wherein

in said step of executing the process for disabling reading of said content program stored in said prescribed memory, information of recommended content programs is stored in said prescribed memory.

17.   (original)   The content program rental method according to claim 16, further comprising the steps of

displaying an image allowing selection of a content program for rental by/on first terminal; and

storing a content program selected based on the image displayed for selection to said prescribed memory, by said first terminal; wherein

contents of the image allowing selection of a content program for rental is determined based on the information of recommended content program stored in said prescribed memory.

18.   (original)   The content program rental method according to claim 15, further comprising the step of

transmitting a content program from said management apparatus to said first terminal; wherein

in said step of executing rental of said content program, said first terminal stores a content program received from said management apparatus in said prescribed memory.

19.   (currently amended)   The content program rental method according to claim 15, wherein

in said step of disabling reading of said content program, said <u>one of the</u> second terminal<u>s</u> further accepts rental reservation from a user, and transmits information of the accepted reservation to said management apparatus; and

said management apparatus adds a reward point to said user whose rental reservation is accepted by said <u>one of the</u> second terminal<u>s</u>, for said rental reservation.

20.   (currently amended)   The content program rental method according to claim 15, further comprising the steps of

accepting input of a rating by a user for the content program of which reading is disabled, by said <u>one of the</u> second terminal<u>s</u>;

transmitting said rating from said <u>one of the</u> second terminal<u>s</u> to said management apparatus; and

adding a reward point to said user by said management apparatus, for said input of rating.